

7 FEBRUARY 2021

# Sunday Message

5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year B • Season Colour: Green • Psalter Week 1



## BEING HEALED AND SERVING

(MARK 1:29-39)

Mark has established Jesus as the teacher with authority and gives us an example of a typical day's activity, which reflects the Jewish hope that the Messianic age would eliminate both Satan and disease.

Jesus touches Peter's sick mother-in-law and helps her up: physical touching is often a feature in healing stories. This incident takes place immediately after Jesus' encounter with the evil spirit in the possessed man and is the first of eight healing works of Jesus, four of which concern women. Mark then tells us that in the evening, Jesus healed a great number of sick people who had been brought to him. Illness was often associated with demonic possession, and we find that after such healings Jesus often commands silence about what he has done: Mark is careful that his readers should not regard miracles (or 'works of power') as proof of Jesus' divine status.

The next day, Jesus goes off early by himself to "a lonely place", literally 'a desert place', suggesting a spot where the person could be in close contact with God. Peter and the others track him down and tell him that "everyone is searching for you". Mark often uses what we would probably consider exaggeration to express the universal element of the Gospel. A strong theme in Mark's account is that people of all sorts misunderstand Jesus: this negative note is sounded here and will develop throughout Jesus' ministry. Capernaum serves as the base from which his preaching mission will spread out to embrace the whole of Galilee. ■



Christ healing Peter's mother-in-law, mosaic in Cora Church, Istanbul

### LEARN

The only other subjects who 'serve' in the Gospel story (apart from women) are angels.

Peter, James and John are shown as being Jesus' companions at certain privileged and private occasions, such as the Transfiguration and Gethsemane.

Illness in the Bible is seen as belonging to the realm opposed to God: total well-being is expressed by the word *Shalom*, usually translated as 'peace'.

### DO

Observe the waiters in a restaurant or café as you sit there or pass by; notice who prepares meals for the others in your home. How does their example reflect the idea of leadership in the Church and your parish?

### SAY

**Your leader must be as one who serves.**

(see Luke 22:26)

### REFLECT

One of the unfortunate characteristics of biblical narrative is that so many of the women who feature in the stories remain anonymous. In our gospel reading today, for example, the four male disciple companions of Jesus are identified by name, but we have no such complementary detail about Peter's mother-in-law. Mark tells us that when she rose from her sick-bed, she began "to wait on them": this is the verb usually translated as 'to serve', and the only human beings who are mentioned as 'serving' in the Gospel tradition are women. Jesus uses the term in his teaching on leadership, that among the disciples the leader is one who 'serves', not one who rules or dominates. Another point we might notice is that the verb in question comes from the same root as the noun which gives us the English word 'deacon'.

We later find that the women are the link witness element in the crucial events of Jesus' death, burial and the events at the tomb of Jesus on Easter morning, after the male disciples had abandoned him in Gethsemane.

In any discussion about the ministry of women in the Church, we might take the New Testament evidence into account, especially Paul's remark that through baptism, there is now "no longer male nor female" in Christ (Gal 3:28). We also should distinguish those customs which belong to historical and cultural systems or prejudice and which have little to do with the revealed Word of God. ■

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

O come, let us worship God  
and bow low before the God who made us,  
for he is the Lord our God.

**GLORIA**

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,  
we bless you,  
we adore you,  
we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

**COLLECT**

Keep your family safe, O Lord, with unfailing  
care,  
that, relying solely on the hope of heavenly  
grace,  
they may be defended always by your  
protection.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of  
the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**FIRST READING**

Job 7:1-4, 6-7

A reading from the book of Job.  
Job began to speak:

Is not man's life on earth nothing more than  
pressed service,  
his time no better than hired drudgery?  
Like the slave, sighing for the shade,  
or the workman with no thought but his  
wages,  
months of delusion I have assigned to me,  
nothing for my own but nights of grief.  
Lying in bed I wonder, "When will it be day?"  
Risen I think, "How slowly evening comes!"  
Restlessly I fret till twilight falls.  
Swifter than a weaver's shuttle my days have  
passed,  
and vanished, leaving no hope behind.  
Remember that my life is but a breath,  
and that my eyes will never again see joy.

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

Ps 146

Response:  
Praise the Lord who heals the  
broken-hearted.  
or  
Alleluia!

1. Praise the Lord for he is good;  
sing to our God for he is loving:  
to him our praise is due. (R.)

2. The Lord builds up Jerusalem  
and brings back Israel's exiles,  
he heals the broken-hearted,  
he binds up all their wounds.  
He fixes the number of the stars:  
he calls each one by its name. (R.)

3. Our Lord is great and almighty;  
his wisdom can never be measured.  
The Lord raises the lowly;  
he humbles the wicked to the dust. (R.)

**SECOND READING** 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the  
Corinthians.

I do not boast of preaching the gospel, since  
it is a duty which has been laid on me; I  
should be punished if I did not preach it! If  
I had chosen this work myself, I might have  
been paid for it, but as I have not, it is a  
responsibility which has been put into my  
hands. Do you know what my reward is? It is  
this: in my preaching, to be able to offer the  
Good News free, and not insist on the rights  
which the gospel gives me.

So though I am not a slave of any man I  
have made myself the slave of everyone so  
as to win as many as I could. For the weak I  
made myself weak. I made myself all things  
to all men in order to save some at any cost;  
and I still do this, for the sake of the gospel,  
to have a share in its blessing.

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
I am the light of the world, says the Lord,  
anyone who follows me  
will have the light of life.  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

Mk 1:29-39

A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
Mark.

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with  
James and John straight to the house of  
Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's mother-  
in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they  
told him about her straightaway. He went to  
her, took her by the hand and helped her up.  
And the fever left her and she began to wait  
on them.

That evening, after sunset, they brought to  
him all who were sick and those who were  
possessed by devils. The whole town came  
crowding round the door and he cured many  
who were suffering from diseases of one kind  
or another; he also cast out many devils, but  
he would not allow them to speak, because  
they knew who he was.

In the morning, long before dawn, he got  
up and left the house, and went off to a  
lonely place and prayed there. Simon and  
his companions set out in search of him, and  
when they found him they said, "Everybody  
is looking for you." He answered, "Let us  
go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country  
towns, so that I can preach there too, because  
that is why I came." And he went all through  
Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and  
casting out devils.

The Gospel of the Lord.  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**PROFESSION OF FAITH**

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with  
the Father;

through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,

*(all bow during the next three lines)*

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the  
Virgin Mary,  
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under  
Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,  
the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored  
and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and  
apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness  
of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the  
dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

O Lord our God,  
who once established these created things  
to sustain us in our frailty,  
grant, we pray,  
that they may become for us now  
the Sacrament of eternal life.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

Let them thank the Lord for his mercy,  
his wonders for the children of men,  
for he satisfies the thirsty soul,  
and the hungry he fills with good things.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

O God, who have willed that we be partakers  
in the one Bread and the one Chalice,  
grant us, we pray, so to live  
that, made one in Christ,  
we may joyfully bear fruit  
for the salvation of the world.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

Holiness is not for wimps and the cross is not  
negotiable, sweetheart, it's a requirement.  
*Mother Angelica*

**UPDATES:** [www.catholic.lu](http://www.catholic.lu) - **Parish Office** - Please contact the office for all enquiries: (+352) 661 127 962 / [parish@catholic.lu](mailto:parish@catholic.lu) Office hours are 08:00 - 12:00 Mon - Fri.

**Weekend Masses:** 7.30 pm Saturdays (vigil), Sundays 11.30am and 6.30pm. We are limited to 100 worshippers at Mass. Please arrive early or try to attend one of the evening Masses rather than the 11.30 Mass. Please wear a mask and disinfectant gel will be available. You will be shown to a seat by one of the welcomers. Thank you for your support and understanding. Fr Michael.

**Livestreaming of Mass:** The Sunday 11.30 Mass is live-streamed via our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/stalphonsexembourg/](https://www.facebook.com/stalphonsexembourg/)

**Weekday Masses:** The Wednesday 6.15pm Mass at St Alphonse is celebrated every week in English by Fr Michael.

**Lent starts with Ash Wednesday on 17 February.** There will be Mass in English at 12.15pm and 6.15pm with the distribution of ashes at both Masses.

**Marriage preparation:** At the moment it is difficult to organise our usual face to face marriage preparation workshops. However, if you are intending to get married in the next year, marriage preparation is available online via webcam with Marriage Care UK. Please contact the parish office for more information: [parish@catholic.lu](mailto:parish@catholic.lu)

**Children's Liturgy** takes place via Zoom before Sunday Mass at 10.30am. Children must be enrolled and parents will be sent the Zoom invitation. Please contact the parish office to register.

**Gardening/ outdoor work:** a young refugee in our community is looking for part-time gardening / outdoor work. If you can offer work, please contact the parish office.

**Please send any notices for the newsletter to the parish office before 12 noon on Wednesday.**

## **MASS SETTING : Mass of Joy**

### **OPENING HYMN : Christ be beside me**

1. Christ be beside me, Christ be before me,  
Christ be behind me, King of my heart;  
Christ be within me, Christ below me,  
Christ be above me never to part.
2. Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand,  
Christ all around me, shield in strife;  
Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting,  
Christ in my rising, light of my life.
3. Christ be in all hearts thinking about me,  
Christ be in all tongues telling of me,  
Christ be the vision in eyes that see me,  
In ears that hear me, Christ ever be.

### **PSALM 146 : Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.**

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the hymn 'Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted'. Both staves are in G major (one sharp) and common time (C). The melody is simple and consists of a series of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.

Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.

## PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS : Into your presence

1. Take as our offering the bread and the wine,  
Fruit of our labour and work of our hands.  
Into your presence we bring them.  
Take as our offering the lives that we lead.  
Bless all our efforts to grow in your love.  
Into your presence we enter.
2. Take as our offering the music we sing.  
Songs of rejoicing for your gift of love.  
Into your presence we bring them.  
Take as our offering the joy in our hearts.  
For in this gathering you come to give life.  
Into your presence we enter.

*In the bread and the wine,  
You give us hope with your presence.  
In the bread and the wine,  
we are made whole in your giving.*

## COMMUNION : Make me a channel of your peace

1. Make me a channel of your peace,  
Where there is hatred,  
let me bring your love,  
Where there is injury,  
your pardon Lord,  
And where there's doubt,  
true faith in you.
2. Make me a channel of your peace,  
Where there's despair in life  
let me bring hope,  
Where there is darkness, only light,  
And where there's sadness, ever joy
3. Make me a channel of your peace,  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
In giving to all that we receive,  
And in dying  
that we're born to eternal life.

*Oh Master,  
grant that I may never seek,  
So much to be consoled as to console,  
To be understood, as to understand,  
To be loved,  
as to love with all my soul*

## COMMUNION II : Lay your hands gently upon us

1. Lay your hands gently upon us  
Let their touch render your peace  
Let them bring your forgiveness and healing  
Lay your hands gently lay your hands
2. You were sent to free the broken hearted  
You were sent to give sight to the blind  
You desire to heal all our illness  
Lay your hands gently lay your hands.
3. Lord we come to you through one another  
Lord we come to you in our need  
Lord we come to you seeking wholeness  
Lay your hands gently lay your hands

## RECESSIONAL : How great thou art

1. O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder  
Consider all the worlds thy hand has made,  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,  
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed.  
  
*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee:  
How great thou art, how great thou art.  
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee:  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art.*
2. When through the wood and forest glades I  
wander  
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;  
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,  
And hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze.
3. And when I think of God,  
his Son not sparing,  
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in  
That on the cross,  
my burden gladly bearing,  
He bled and died to take away my sin.
4. When Christ shall come  
with shout of acclamation  
And take me home,  
what joy shall fill my heart;  
When I shall bow in humble adoration,  
And there proclaim: my God,  
how great thou art.